

Chair Neron, Vice Chairs McIntire and Dobson, and Members of the Committee,

For the record, my name is Lina Preble and I am an OSEA member working at Centennial High School as a SPED Assistant for the Centennial School District. I am also the Secretary for OSEA's Centennial Chapter 113.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 3357 today.

For my entire education career, which has spanned over 20 years, I have experienced both food and housing insecurity. One of the main reasons for this is because of a work related injury I experienced that has decreased my capacity to effectively do my job. For over 10 years, I have been begging my school district to address my injuries and help me find a long-term solution to the struggles I regularly deal with. During these 10+ years, I have had building administrators and learning assistants make me very anxious about the prospect of losing my job because of my injury. I have even been called an outright liar by supervisory staff after it was discovered that my medical records had disappeared out of my file completely without my knowledge.

For years I had been made to feel pressure to get an expensive operation done that could have forced my daughter and I into homelessness in order to not run the risk of eventually losing my job. I did finally have that operation done a year ago. To make that happen, I had to put the expense on my credit card and accumulate hundreds of hours of sick leave which were then drained by my recovery. While I luckily had enough sick leave to just barely pay my bills, I am still to this day paying \$100 a month that I don't have without cutting corners elsewhere toward medical bills.

I urge you to pass HB 3357 so that my coworkers won't have to go through a decade of pain, anxiety, and the prospect of threatened job insecurity like I have due to an inability to track information regarding school staff injuries. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely,
Linda Preble
OSEA Centennial Chapter 113 Secretary/SPED Assistant